



NOAA

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



June 2, 2010

**Joint Statement by Canada, Japan, Korea and the United States
on the Sustainable Use of Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Resources**

An informal meeting of some countries that fish for Atlantic bluefin tuna as members of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), convened by Japan, took place May 30, 2010, in Barcelona, Spain. While it was not an official meeting of ICCAT, several participants issued the following statement to reiterate their joint commitment to stock recovery. The next annual meeting of ICCAT is scheduled for November 17-27, 2010 in Paris, France.

The text of the joint statement is attached.

For more information, contact NOAA Fisheries Public Affairs, at 1(301) 713-2370.

Statement on Sustainable Use of
Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Resources

May 30, 2010

Barcelona, Spain

An informal meeting of a number of Atlantic bluefin tuna fishing countries took place May 30, 2010, in Barcelona. Countries met to confirm their commitment to stock recovery and sustainable management of Atlantic bluefin tuna and issued the following statement:

The participants to the Informal Meeting of Countries (Canada, Japan, Korea and the United States) involved in Atlantic bluefin tuna fisheries,

Recognizing the international focus on the effective conservation and management of Atlantic Bluefin Tuna (BFT);

Noting that a proposal to list BFT on Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was not adopted at the 15th Conference of the Parties (CoP15) of CITES in Doha, Qatar;

Reaffirming that prompt recovery and sustainable use of the BFT stocks should be realized within the framework of ICCAT;

Recalling that ICCAT adopted Recommendation 08-04 at its 2008 annual meeting which implements a precautionary harvest strategy for Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna which follows the advice from the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS), and commits to adjusting the harvest level based on future SCRS advice;

Recalling that ICCAT adopted Recommendation 08-05 at its 2008 annual meeting which contains a comprehensive set of measures for recovery of Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin Tuna (EBFT) as well as monitoring, control and enforcement measures for the fisheries;

Recalling that ICCAT adopted Recommendation 09-06 at its 2009 annual meeting which requires ICCAT members to establish a three-year recovery plan for Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin Tuna (EBFT) at its 2010 annual meeting, based on the advice from the SCRS, and suspend BFT fisheries for the eastern stock in 2011 if a serious threat of fishery collapse is detected,

Confirmed their commitment to:

Ensure that the management of Atlantic Bluefin Tuna fully meets the requirements of the ICCAT Convention and binding recommendations through:

- following the advice of the SCRS regarding sustainable harvest levels to ensure at least a 60% probability of recovering the EBFT stock to a level of Bmsy, no later than the end of 2022.
- accurately reporting all catch data for this species pursuant to the requirements set out by ICCAT;
- ensuring that fishing capacity is managed to restrict the possibilities of overfishing occurring;
- preventing trade of BFT which is in contravention of ICCAT measures through the full implementation of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Scheme (Rec. 09-11)
- agreeing to the implementation of compliance action where continued non-compliance with ICCAT measures is identified, including possible quota reductions and trade measures for non-compliance.